IN THE CLAIMS

- 1. (original) A nucleic acid vector comprising: (i) a promoter; (ii) a sequence encoding a polypeptide from a member of the HML-2 subgroup of the HERV-K family of endogenous retroviruses, said sequence being operably linked to said promoter; and (iii) a selectable marker.
- 2. (original) The vector of claim1, further comprising: (iv) an origin of replication; and (v) a transcription terminator downstream of and operably linked to (ii).
- 3. (original) The vector of claim 2, wherein : (i) & (v) are eukaryotic; and (iii) & (iv) are prokaryotic.
- 4. (currently amended) The vector of <u>claim 1</u> any preceding claim, wherein the HML-2 is PCAV from human chromosome 22.
- 5. (currently amended) The vector of <u>claim 1</u> any preceding claim, wherein the promoter is functional in vivo in a human.
- 6. (currently amended) The vector of <u>claim 1</u> any preceding claim, wherein the promoter is a viral promoter.
- 7. (original) The vector of claim 6, wherein the viral promoter is from cytomegalovirus (CMV).
- 8. (currently amended) The vector of <u>claim 1</u> any preceding claim, comprising transcriptional regulatory sequences in addition to the promoter.
- 9. (currently amended) The vector of <u>claim 1</u> any preceding claim, wherein the HML-2 polypeptide is a gag, prt, pol, env, cORF or PCAP polypeptide.
- 10. (original) The vector of claim 9, wherein the HML-2 polypeptide: (a) has at least 65% identity to one or more of SEQ ID NOS: 1-50,69-74, 78 and 79; and/or (b) comprises a fragment of at least 7 amino acids from one or more of SEO ID NOS: 1-50,69-74, 78 and 79.
- 11. (currently amended) The vector of <u>claim 1</u> any preceding claim, wherein the selectable marker functions in a bacterium.

- 12. (currently amended) The vector of <u>claim 1</u> any preceding claim, wherein the selectable marker is an antibiotic resistance genes.
- 13. (currently amended) The vector of <u>claim 1</u> any preceding claim, wherein the vector is a plasmid.
- 14. (currently amended) The vector of <u>claim 1</u> any preceding claim, wherein the vector comprises an origin of replication.
- 15. (original) The vector of claim 14, wherein the origin of replication is active in prokaryotes but not in eukaryotes.
- 16. (currently amended) The vector of <u>claim 1</u> any preceding claim, further comprising a eukaryotic transcriptional terminator sequence downstream of the HML2-coding sequence.
- 17. (currently amended) The vector of <u>claim 1</u> any preceding claim, further comprising a multiple cloning site.
- 18. (currently amended) The vector of <u>claim 1</u> any preceding claim, further comprising an IRES upstream of a second sequence encoding a eukaryotic polypeptide.
- 19. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the vector of <u>claim 1</u> any preceding claim.
 - 20-21. (canceled)
- 22. (currently amended) A method for raising an immune response, comprising administering an immunogenic dose of the vector of claim 1 any one of claims 1 to 18 to an animal.
- 23. (original) A method for treating a patient with a prostate tumor, comprising administering to them the pharmaceutical composition of claim 19.
 - 24. (original) A virus-like particle (VLP) comprising HML-2 gag polypeptides.
 - 25-26. (canceled)

- 27. (original) A method of raising an immune response in an animal, comprising administering to the animal the VLP of claim 24.
- 28. (original) A method for treating a patient with a prostate tumor, comprising administering to them the VLP of claim 24.
- 29. (original) A method for diagnosing cancer in a patient, comprising the step of (a) contacting antibodies from the patient with the VLP of claim 24, and/or (b) contacting antibodies against the VLP of claim 24 with a patient sample.